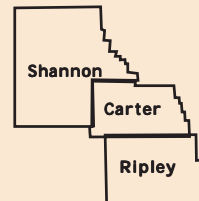




Conservation Currents



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
PROJECTS, ISSUES AND PROGRAMS IN SHANNON, CARTER AND RIPLEY COUNTIES

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ✓ **MANAGING FOR QUAIL HABITAT**
- ✓ **BLACK BEARS IN THE OZARKS**
- ✓ **CURRENT RIVER SUCKERS**
- ✓ **LOCAL CONSERVATION AGENT AWARDED**

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Current Conversations

The Bridges' Place John D. Hoskins Director

My wife and I own 180 acres of wild land in the Ozarks. We call it "The Bridges' Place," out of respect to Andrew Johnston Bridges who built his homestead there in the 1800s. Today, the only evidence of early settlement is a log, "dog trot" house—two rooms with a breezeway between them. There is no one left to tell how or when the pine logs were hewn from tall trees and fitted together, but this landmark reminds us of the pioneer craftsmen who resided here.

The Bridges' Place is a long way from our home, and we don't visit as often as we would like. We try to go there at least once a season, and soon after we arrive we always take a long walk with the hope that we will see a rare creature or plant, perhaps a bear or a lady slipper orchid. I usually have my camera in hand, but I have never been satisfied with the pictures I've taken because they fail to capture the depth of the experience.

If I had to pick only one season for The Bridges' Place field trip, it would be autumn, and October would be my favorite month. It's gorgeous outdoors in October, especially where Missouri's colorful fall foliage is in full display. Many of Missouri's oak species are represented on the Bridges' Place, as well as maple, hickory, dogwood, sassafras, sycamore, gum, ash, and others. The variety of color displayed by these hardwood species blends perfectly with the green of shortleaf pines scattered among them.

Like many Missourians who own parcels of land, we like the feeling of both freedom and responsibility to do what we think is right on the property. We are both consumptive and non-consumptive users of this land, and I see no inconsistency in this. I experience as much

pleasure from identifying song birds as I do hunting deer with my sons. Full-fledged outdoors people can and should develop multiple uses of land and natural resources.

Many landowners have little experience managing for wildlife, and we find ourselves in need of information before we can make decisions. Today's federal and state programs designed to assist landowners with conservation practices are complex enough to challenge the understanding of anyone unfamiliar with them.

To serve private landowners like us, the

Department of Conservation provides advice and technical support free of charge. Missouri Department of Conservation employees have made it their business to understand those programs and opportunities so that they can help us use them to make conservation practices happen on our land, if that is what we want.

The Bridges' Place is about 80 percent forest and 20 percent open fields with a small, wet-weather stream running through it. Heeding

some good advice, we have planted a variety of trees in a narrow strip adjacent to the creek to reforest the stream corridor. We renovated one pond for wildlife watering and to provide habitat for amphibians. We also plan to renovate another. We want to keep the balance of the fields open to provide edge habitat, cover and food for quail and other wildlife. Restoration of native grasses is a project for tomorrow.

If you own some acreage, you may need help in fulfilling your vision and the responsibilities we share to provide for Mother Nature. Department of Conservation employees are here to serve. Please call us. We would be glad to help you achieve your conservation goals on your property. This service is hugely important to us as conservation professionals, and to everyone who cares about our fish, forests and wildlife.



Director John Hoskins still has family roots in the

Forestry FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN IS THE KEY



"Best of all, these services are free of charge."

Gary Gognat
Resource Forester

The Missouri Department of Conservation Forestry Division's mission statement is as follows: *To protect and manage the forests*

of the state for long term resource sustainability and for the use and enjoyment of the people; to contribute and work with all Divisions toward the Missouri Department of Conservation mission. This statement gives foresters and resource managers direction on how to manage the state's forested areas, both on public and private lands. The forests are to be managed for 'long term sustainability'. In other words, so that forest resources will be continuous and we are not harvesting more than we are growing.

Forests in Missouri cover over 13 million acres or about 30 percent of the state. Missouri ranks 20th out of the 50 states in terms of forest coverage. Statewide, nearly 2,500 firms are involved in logging and wood products manufacturing. These businesses employ more than 33,000 people and contribute \$3,000,000,000 (that is \$3 billion) each year to Missouri's economy.

The Missouri Ozarks has the greatest concentration of oak timberland in the Midwest. In Shannon, Carter, and Ripley counties, forests cover the majority of the landscape and are the mainstay of local economies. However, 93 percent of the forestland is privately owned and 7 percent is public land. That means that the vast majority of forest products are coming from privately owned land. One of the goals of

the Forestry Division is to work with and assist private landowners in the professional management of their natural resources.

The Missouri Department of Conservation offers a range of services to landowners, both large and small, for the management of their lands. Best of all, these services are free of charge. The Stewardship Program is one of the premier avenues by which professional assistance is provided to landowners. With this program, a written plan is designed to meet the landowner's objectives for his or her property. For example, a plan can be written to help the landowner develop wildlife habitat, convert fescue to native grasses, or improve forest health. If the landowner desires a forest products sale, the department will inventory the forest, mark trees that need cut, and help market the timber to get the best return. With this program, as with any assistance provided, the landowner remains in charge of the property and makes the final decision on what to do.

If you would like management assistance with any of the resources on your land, whether it be forests, wildlife, open lands, or fish, please refer to the personnel listing on the last page of this newsletter and contact the Missouri Department of Conservation office in your county. We look forward to meeting you and to assisting you with the management of your property.



"With this program, a written plan is designed to meet the landowner's objectives for his or her property."

Fisheries

SUCKERS OF THE CURRENT RIVER



"Suckers account for most of the total pounds of fish in the Current River."

Dave Mayers
Fisheries Management Biologist

Can a sucker be considered a "trophy" fish? Well, many long-time river folks would say so. And it's no wonder because they account for most of the total pounds of fish in the Current and Jacks Fork rivers, not to mention they taste delicious.

How many different species of suckers are there in these rivers; two, three, four? Most people are not aware that there are many different species. Hog suckers and yellow suckers are the common sucker types. Hog suckers are easily identifiable by their box-shaped heads and brownish camouflaged appearance, while yellow suckers have a golden appearance and lack any distinguishing marks. Yellow suckers are

actually several different species grouped into the redhorse family. Golden, black, river and shorthead redhorse are by far the most abundant redhorse. Throw in the less common silver redhorse, spotted sucker, white sucker and blue sucker and you have a total of nine different sucker species! The largest of these is the river redhorse. Distinguished by its bright red tail fin, river redhorse can reach 26 inches and 8 pounds. The current state fishing record is 8 pounds, and the gigging/grabbing record is a whopping 17 pounds! The gigging daily limit for these nongame fish in the Current River is 20 combined, but only 5 may be hog suckers.

Sucker fishermen and giggers have their own opinions on these traditionally popular fish. Many of these ideas are based on years and years of pursuing suckers with pole and line,

or sharp gigs, while some are based on folklore myth.

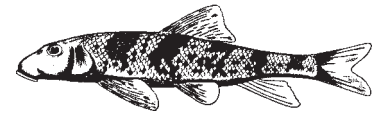
One sucker myth that biologists have been able to dismiss is that suckers make long upstream "spawning runs" in the spring, coming from dozens of miles downstream. To investigate this idea, fisheries professionals attached tiny radio transmitters to suckers in the Current River and followed them for one year. What they found was quite interesting. The sucker's home range, which is the area it spends most of its time in, was very small, about 1,400 feet in the summer and fall, and about 2,700 feet in the winter and spring. The slightly larger range in the winter-spring period was related to spawning, but it was found that suckers move upstream only a short distance to a gravel covered spawning shoal. From one August to the next, 95% of the suckers were found in the same pool-riffle as the previous year. So in reality, suckers are "home bodies" in the fish world.

Many times, usually about the end of the second week of gigging season, I am asked what happened to all the suckers in the river? Many giggers report that it's difficult to find fish. My response is usually based

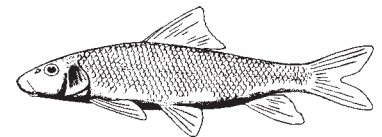
on gigging pressure and fish movement studies we have conducted. Surveys have consistently shown that over one-half of all the gigging pressure occurs the first two weeks of gigging season. Pressure then drops off dramatically, and picks up the last week of the season in January. With this intense boat pressure early in the season, suckers will find a safe place such as the deepest part of a pool, vegetation beds, or even shallow stream edges inaccessible to jet boats. Many believe all the fish have been "gigged-out", yet the following summer we find numerous fish of all ages in our electrofishing samples. I guess like the big old bucks, they find ways to survive to ensure there will be plenty the following year.

Starting September 15th this year the night covered waters of the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers will come alive with light probing gig boats in search of these prize fish. Whether you call them hog mollies, yellow suckers, or redbfin sucker doesn't really matter. To serious sucker giggers they are all trophy fish. And for the most part, their trophy will be ultimately be found proudly framed.....right between the fried potatoes and hush puppies.

"...suckers move upstream only a short distance to a gravel covered spawning shoal."



Hog Sucker



Redhorse Sucker

Wildlife

OZARK BEARS MAKE HISTORY



Rhonda Rimer -
Natural History
Biologist

Once upon a time, seeing a black bear in the Ozarks was something only your grandpa could remember. From 1958 to 1968, wildlife

officials in Arkansas decided to address that issue and reintroduced 254 Minnesota and Manitoba black bears to the Ozark area of that state.

Arkansas bears did what came naturally—they mated and had babies. Bear numbers went up and bears, mostly young males, began seeking new territories with fewer bears. The Missouri Ozarks was an attractive place to make a home for wandering young bears.

Missouri black bears now number somewhere between 150 and 300 individuals. There isn't a lot of evidence that the bears are reproducing yet in the state.

Male bears are loners except during the mating season. Female bears give birth every other year. The average litter consists of from two to four cubs, and cubs stay with their mother for about 17 months before striking out on their own. Black bear breeding peaks in July.

When acorns mature in September, bears begin a period of frenzied feeding that may last for up to 20 hours a day. Gorging on acorns can result in an animal gaining as much as two pounds of fat per day. Acorns are a critical food source for Ozark black bears. When the acorn crop goes bust, fetuses of pregnant sows will not survive.

Colder weather and less daylight signal black bears that it's time to find a den.



"The Missouri Ozarks was an attractive place to make a home for wandering young bears."

and dug out areas under logs. The female's cubs are born while she is still sleeping. If she was in good shape when she entered her den she will produce enough milk to feed her cubs until they leave the den in the spring.

Bear cub's have a tough life—some are killed by coyotes or dogs or hit by cars, and only 40 to 50 percent of them will survive to age three. Because of all these hazards, bear populations usually grow slowly.

Few people have seen a bear in the Ozarks and no people have been attacked. Most of the trouble with bears involves them raiding beehives or chicken houses. They will eat almost anything: berries and mushrooms, young buds and shoots, wild honey, grubs, acorns, and sometimes they'll scavenge carrion.

Bears are smart. If they find it's easy to get food from locations with people nearby, it doesn't take long for them to become used to getting food from that location and to lose their fear of people. This can be a dangerous combination.



Like people, black bears are curious. That's how they learn. But as soon as you suspect that a black bear's been eating dog or livestock food or visiting bird feeders, contact the Conservation Department.

Keep food out of reach or watch as they eat until a wildlife biologist can assess the problem and help in this solution. Don't approach a bear. Bears, no matter how friendly they may appear, are still wild animals. And wild animals are unpredictable.

When bears become a nuisance, wildlife biologists have several ways to solve the problem. These include erecting electric fences, firing shell crackers, or shooting off starter's pistols. If those don't work, the bear is trapped and relocated to a different area. To date, only one bear has been destroyed.

Help keep Ozark bears on track as they begin to repopulate areas of the state that have not supported bears in close to a century. Most importantly, at the first sign of bear trouble, call the Conservation Department. It's the best thing for you and the best thing for our bears.

"Like people, black bears are curious. That's how they learn."



Protection

LOCAL AGENT RECEIVES AWARD



"Conservation agents will be concentrating their efforts in the less congested areas of the rivers during gigging season."

Scott Stephens
Conservation Agent

AGENT BRAD HADLEY CHOSEN AS NWTF OFFICER OF THE YEAR FOR 2003
Conservation Agent Brad Hadley was selected as Missouri's National Wild Turkey Federation's Officer of the Year for 2003. Conservation Agent Hadley was selected based upon his resource law enforcement, an effective balance of program responsibilities, job knowledge, work habits, creativity, initiative, and his teamwork and cooperation with the National Wild Turkey Federation. Brad is a founding associate of the Current River Callers chapter of the NWTF and has been an active member since its inception.

ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Conservation Agents in the Current River district conducted over two dozen group patrols throughout the summer on the Current River and Jack Fork River. These patrols encompassed several other enforcement agencies resulting in over 100

arrests for violations such as no fishing permits, short Smallmouth bass, littering, possession of illegal substances, and MIP's. All three counties are planning several group patrols for this year's Sucker gigging season. The main focus will be on over limit of suckers and game fish taken by gig. Conservation agents will be concentrating their efforts in the less congested areas of the rivers during gigging season. We will be setting up on camps watching for individuals attempting to take over limits throughout the evening. Hopefully these efforts will help ensure safe river activities and ensure successful fishing for everyone for years to come.



BIG CHANGES FOR 2004 DEER AND TURKEY SEASONS

- September 15th is the opener for archery deer and turkey season.
- November 6-7 is the Youth portion.
- November 13-23 is the November firearms deer portion.
- November 26-December 5 is the Muzzleloader portion.
- October 11-24 is the fall firearms turkey season.
- All hunters will check fall firearms turkey via the TeleCheck system or on the internet.
- County lines instead of deer management unit boundaries will be used to regulate deer harvest.
- Another change, although it **does not apply** to Shannon, Carter, or Ripley counties, is the antler restriction regulation. In the 29 selected counties a legal buck must have at least 4 points on at least one side.

The antler restriction does not apply to youth hunters.

-The "Farm Tag" has been eliminated. All 5+ acre landowners must have a deer or turkey permit issued by the POS system. These permits are still free to qualifying landowners.

-All hunters have 24 hours to check their deer during all portions of the firearms deer season.



"Antler restrictions will not apply to Shannon, Carter, or Ripley Counties this year."

Private Lands

BRUSH + WEEDS = QUAIL



Brad McKee
Private Land Conservationist

Enhancing quail populations on most area farms is limited by only two habitat types, shrubby escape cover and brood rearing habitat. Nest and brood rearing habitat must be close to each other or chicks will not be able to make the journey from the cradle to the supper table. Good habitat on a 40 acre farm can support a covey of quail and several rabbits compared to deer which call home to around 640 acres or turkey which need lots of elbow room, 3,000 to 5,000 acres. Without nesting and brood rearing habitat, a covey will soon move or continue to decline.

Shrubs such as blackberry, gooseberry, buckbrush, sumac, young hardwoods, and plum thickets all make great nesting habitat and escape cover. Shrubby habitat can be maintained in areas of the field which are too rocky or steep to bush hog. Idle areas, drainages and brush piles that are growing up with black berries, broom sedge, or grown up fence rows along county roads all make good nesting and escape cover.

Brood rearing habitat comes in the form of weeds, bare ground and early emergent vegetation. This habitat provides easy movement for the thumb sized quail chicks and also attracts an abundance of insects

which quail chicks need to survive the first 4 weeks of their life. This early emergent vegetation will germinate and flower throughout the growing season, attracting insects. Eventually it will mature into full-grown weeds. Leave the weeds for winter cover, seed production, and next year's nesting cover. Ragweed and annual lespedezas are good examples of early emergent vegetation.

Summer grain crops can be planted to provide early emergent vegetation. Buckwheat, sunflower, german millet, laredo hay beans, milo, and cow peas grow well in Ozark soils. Winter wheat, annual lespedeza, and white clovers can be planted in the fall and winter to provide vegetation to attract bugs and produce grain for adult quail.

For assistance with habitat on your land please contact Brad McKee Missouri Department of Conservation Private Land Conservationist at 417-778-7561 extension 107.



"Without nesting and brood rearing habitat a covey will soon move or continue to decline."

Did you know: A Missouri quail study found quail coveys stay within 70 feet of shrubby cover.

Education

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE



Melanie Carden-Jensen
Conservation Education
Consultant

If it concerns forest, fish or wildlife of Missouri, Outreach and Education can be a valuable resource to you, your civic group, organization, or school. Need a program at your group's next meeting? How about some teaching resources for your Scouts, 4H group, classroom, or homeschool group? Maybe you would like to have a program at your school? A fishing trip with your student group? Attend a workshop or program on caves, wildflowers and wild edibles, mammals, insects, camping, reptiles, etc.? Need a booth set up at your fair? If the answer to any of these is yes, give us a call. Given that there are so few of us in a 12 county area, you might want to call early as we book up pretty fast.

The Education section of the Conservation Department's outreach and education offers a wide spectrum of programs to Missouri residents. For the general public, we have scheduled programs for which you may register and attend, free of charge. To see what's coming up, call the West Plains office at 4172567161 to request a calendar or check us out on the web at .

For the educator, we have discovery trunks, workshops, learning activities correlated with the show me standards, grant opportunities for outdoor classrooms, as well as arranged classroom visits. In October, we'll be taking our indoor "cave" on the road. We have a cave that blows up with the power of a single box fan. Inside the cave, students are introduced to underground artwork know as stalagmites and stalagmites as well as the creatures who live there. Ever think about what drives the ecosystem in a cave? The answer may surprise you...

We offer teacher workshops for both credit and noncredit, at our location or yours, to help meet your professional development needs. Discovery trunks are another popular resource. We have boxes of materials to loan educators on topics such as mammals, insects, reptiles, trees, to Lewis and Clark. Phone the West Plains office to request a brochure of trunks available in Shannon County. For Carter and Ripley County, call Bridget Jackson at 5738409788. These help make learning fun, hands on and meaningful for the student, and you.

Continued on page 7



News Bites and Tid Bits

The **Ozark hellbender** is a harmless animals that inhabit Missouri's cold, fast-flowing streams. Once plentiful, their populations are now in peril, and the Missouri Department of Conservation is trying to find out why.

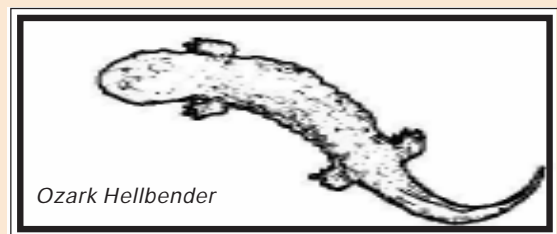
What You Can Do To Help

You can help the hellbender and the people who are trying to save them.

- Report hellbender sightings to Jeff Briggler at 573/522-4115, ext. 3201, or e-mail <jeff.briggler@mdc.mo.gov>. Because they are on the streams at night, giggers probably see more hellbenders than anyone else. If you gig, report how many hellbenders you see.
- Protect hellbender habitat from disturbance.
- If you catch a hellbender while fishing, cut the line to release it.
- Report illegal taking of hellbenders.
- Join a Stream Team to get involved in habitat protection and water quality monitoring.

Hellbenders have a rightful place in Missouri streams. They are an integral, fascinating and harmless component of a healthy ecosystem. With your help, they may once again flourish in their native waters.

Missouri was a leader in **lumber production** at the turn of the century when the pine forests of the Ozarks were logged. Through forest protection and management, Missouri is once again a leader in forest products, including charcoal, barrels, walnut nutmeats and shell products, and redcedar gift items. For many communities, wood products are the mainstay of the local economy. Statewide, nearly 2,500 firms are involved in logging and wood products manufacturing. These businesses employ more than 33,000 people and contribute \$3 billion each year to Missouri's economy.



Ozark Hellbender

For the second year in a row, laboratory tests found no Missouri deer with **chronic wasting disease (CWD)**. The Missouri Department of Conservation says it plans to continue testing deer taken in this year's hunting season and in the future. Ripley county deer were tested in 2002. In 2004 Shannon and Carter counties will be tested. Approximately 200 deer from each county will looked at.

The **2003 firearms deer season** set a new record when hunters took 254,369 deer—2.6 percent more than in 2002. The future remains bright for Missouri deer hunters.

The **Share the Harvest** program provides a way for hunters to donate much needed meat protein to needy Missourians. The program is administered by the Missouri Department of Conservation in conjunction with the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

In 1925, the **state's deer herd** was estimated to be only around 400. By 1944, the statewide deer population soared to 15,000, and Missouri held its first deer season since the recovery effort had begun. Between 1944 and 1951, hunting was restricted to bucks only to allow deer populations to grow. In 1951, limited doe harvests were initiated.

Hunter education is just one of the programs offered by the outdoor skills section of the Department of Conservation. Outdoor skills specialist, Jerry Austin, conducts bowhunter education, how to read maps and navigate by compass, fishing (fly fishing and bait casting), canoeing, archery, marksmanship, backpacking, outdoor cooking, historic skills, trapping and more.

Before you can become a caretaker of something, you have to appreciate it. Before you can appreciate it, you have to know it exists. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Outreach and Education Division offers a wide spectrum of resources, both programs and materials, to help its residents get to know a bit more about our corner of the world.

JACKS FORK AND PLATE

Brandied Venison Tenderloin Steaks

*Rhonda Rimer, MDC Natural History
Biologist, West Plains*

*4 loin steaks 3/4" thick
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons brandy
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce*

Melt butter over medium-high heat in large fry pan and quickly sear steaks. Reduce heat and cook for an additional 2-6 minutes on each side. Mix 2 tablespoons brandy and Worcestershire sauce and pour over steaks. Simmer on low heat for 1-2 minutes.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share send it to:
Rhonda Rimer
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
P.O. Box 138
West Plains, MO 65775

Fall-Off-The-Bone Squirrel

Chuck Wichern, MDC Fisheries Technician, West Plains

*3 squirrels, quartered into pieces
lemon pepper seasoning
flour
white onion
water
vegetable oil*

Dredge meat in flour, and deep fry in oil only until golden brown (this will prepare the squirrel for baking)

Remove squirrel from oil, and place on paper towels to drain.

In a 10 x 12 inch baking pan, disposable aluminum pan makes for easy cleanup, place a wire rack or crinkled foil in bottom of pan to elevate squirrel.

Place fried squirrel in pan, and add 1 ½ cups of water.

Cover squirrel with one thickly sliced onion.

Sprinkle with lemon pepper seasoning.

Cover pan with heavy duty aluminum foil and crimp edges to seal in moisture.

Place in 350 degree oven until tender. About 2 – 2 ½ hours depending on age of squirrel.

Check occasionally and add water if necessary to maintain steaming.

Tenderness of squirrel is essential for good flavor.

Enjoy the most tender and tasty squirrel ever.

Outdoor Calendar

Hunting

Groundhog
Coyote
Squirrel
Rabbit
Deer/Turkey Archery

Deer Youth Firearms
Deer Firearms
Deer Muzzleloader
Deer Antlerless Firearms
Turkey, Fall Firearms

Opens

5/10/04
5/10/04
5/22/04
10/01/04
9/15/04
11/24/04
11/6/04
11/13/04
11/26/04
12/11/04
10/11/04

Closes

12/15/04
3/31/05
2/15/05
2/15/05
11/12/04
1/15/05
11/7/04
11/23/04
12/05/04
12/19/04
10/24/04

Fishing

Black Bass (impoundments)
Black Bass
(streams, Current Jacks Fork
and their tributaries)
Trout Management Areas
Trout Parks
Gigging Nongame Fish (streams)

Opens

Open All Year
5/22/04
Open All Year
3/1/04
9/15/04

Closes

2/28/05

10/31/04
1/31/05

Resident Hunting Permit Prices

Hunting and Fishing --- \$19
Small Game --- \$10
Fall Firearms Turkey ---\$13
Youth Deer and Turkey ---\$17
Archery Hunting ---\$19
Firearms Any Deer ---\$17
Firearms First Bonus Deer --- \$7
Firearms Second Bonus Deer --- \$7
Trapping --- \$10

Resident Fishing Permit Prices

Hunting and Fishing --- \$19
Fishing --- \$12
Trout --- \$7

We're on the Web!
WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Ozark Regional Office

P.O. Box 138
551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
Phone: 417/256-7161
Fax: 417/256-0429

Central Office

P.O. Box 180
2901 W. Truman Blvd.
Jefferson City, MO
65109
Phone: 573/751-4115

MDC MISSION

- ✓ To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state,
- ✓ To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities,
- ✓ To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

Mission of This Newsletter

The mission of this newsletter is to share current information about conservation projects, issues, and programs and to develop working relationships with the citizens of Shannon, Carter, and Ripley Counties.

Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson

Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service

Phone: 1-800-392-1111

CONTACT OFFICES AND NAMES

If you have a question about any of the following topics, here are your contact professionals:

Shannon Co. Field Office
573/226-3616

Carter Co. Field Office
573/323-8515

Ripley Co. Field Office
573/996-2557

Forestry

Gary Gognat 573/226-3616
Bryan Hirt 573/226-3616
Dennis Hutchison 573/226-3616

Forestry

John Tuttle 573/323-8515

Forestry

Steve Paes 573/996-2557

Private Land Management:

Brad McKee 417/778-6610

Private Land Management:

Brad McKee 417/778-6610

Private Land Management:

Brad McKee 417/778-6610

Conservation Agents:

Brad Hadley 573/292-8540
Scott Stephens 573/226-3089

Conservation Agents:

Ryan Houf 573/323-4727
Mark Wilcoxon 573/323-8523

Conservation Agents:

Darren Killian 573/996-5984
Jason Langston 573/996-2346

Wildlife

Dan Drees 573/226-3616
Rhonda Rimer 417/256-7161

Wildlife

Dan Drees 573/226-3616
Rhonda Rimer 417/256-7161

Wildlife

Dan Drees 573/226-3616
Rhonda Rimer 417/256-7161

Fisheries

Dave Mayers 417/256-7161

Fisheries

Dave Mayers 417/256-7161

Fisheries

Dave Mayers 417/256-7161

Conservation Education

Melanie Carden-Jensen 417/256-7161

Conservation Education

Bridget Jackson 573/290-5858

Conservation Education

Bridget Jackson 573/290-5858

Outdoor Skills

Jerry Austin 417/256-7161

Outdoor Skills

Jerry Austin 417/256-7161

Outdoor Skills

Jerry Austin 417/256-7161